



# SAIISA : a Project to Semi-automatic Assignment of ISSN Codes to Italian Serials

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# Outline

- The ISSN italian centre
- State of the art in Italy about serials
- Collaboration between ISSN and the ACNP Catalogue
- SAIISA project
  - Partners
  - Methodology
  - Agreement
  - Benefits

# The ISSN Italian centre

- Italian ISSN Centre established in 1975 by the adhesion of CNR- ISRDS to the UNESCO UNISIST project
- Since 2005 has joined to the CNR Central Library, where it is actually located
- Total amount of records in the ISSN Register
  - 38,873 print; 2,369 online; 491 optical and CD
  - 2,224 number of assignments in the last 12 months
  - 7,891 in/out info contacts in the last 12 months

# State of the art in Italy about serials

Two union catalogues for serials

- ACNP (the National Serials Catalogue)
  - Mainly adopted by university and research libraries
  - Special catalogue for serials
  - "de facto" national catalogue in academic and research environment
  - 2,500 libraries
- SBN (the National Library Service)
  - Union catalogue of books and serials
  - Promoted by ICCU (Italian Ministry of Cultural heritage)
  - 3,500 libraries

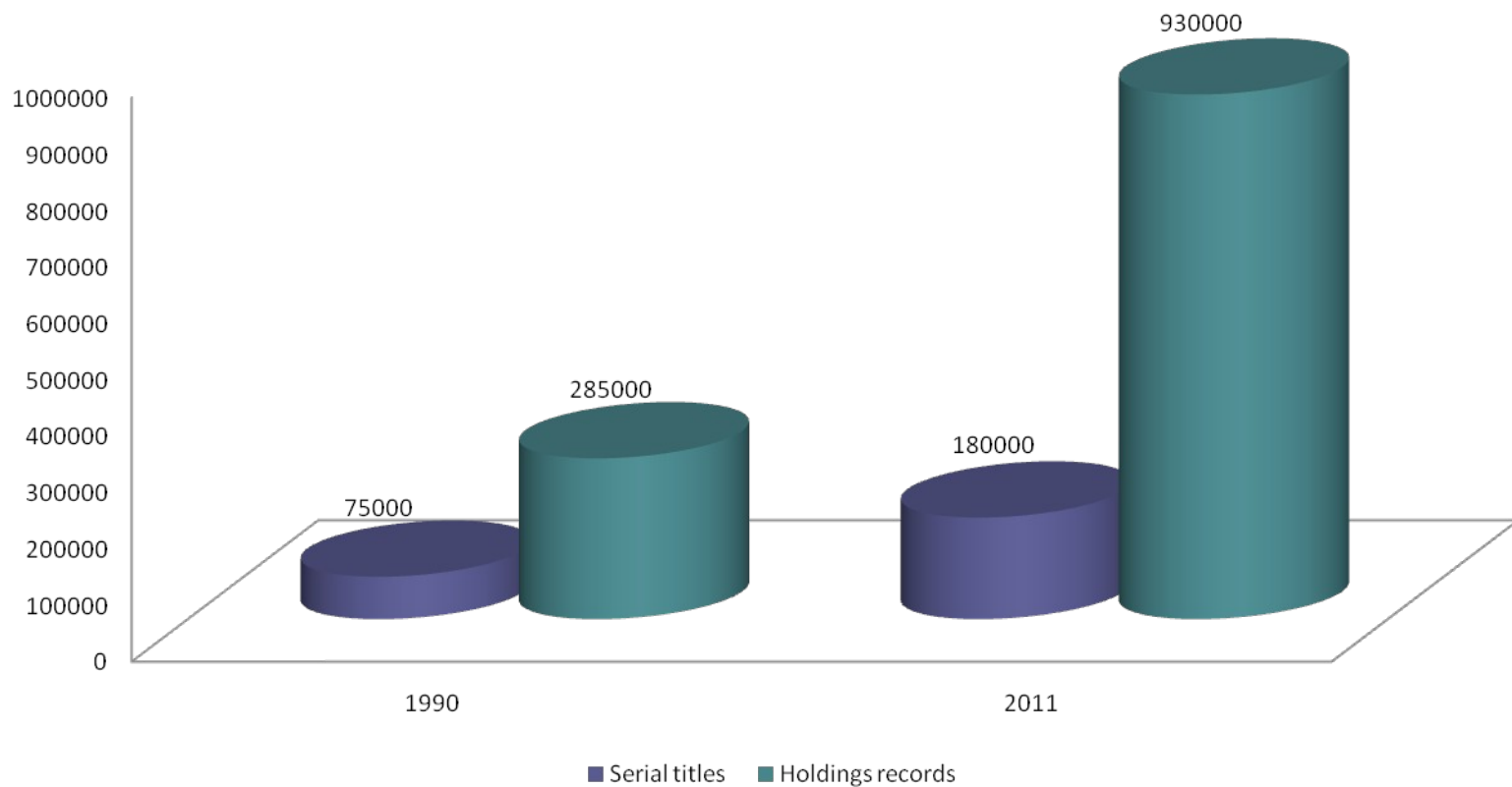
# Collaboration between ACNP and ISSN

- 1970 First edition of the ACNP catalogue (print)
- 1989 Start of the collaboration between ISRDS-CNR and CIB University of Bologna to set up the ACNP catalogue online and to develop management procedures
- 1990 ACNP online
- 1993 Acquisition of the ISSN Register for derivative cataloguing
- 1993 Correlated services: register of libraries and archive of articles
- 1996 Formal agreement between CNR and University of Bologna to jointly management of ACNP
- 1997 – 2000 EU Project CASA (Co-operative Archive of Serials and Articles)
  - Developing mechanisms, services and systems to support a virtual library of information on serials and articles
  - Partners: University of Bologna, ISSN-IC, 3 ISSN NC (It, Gr, No) and others

# Other ACNP collaborations

- ACNP linked to NILDE (Network for Inter-Library Document Exchange) from 2002
  - 700+ Italian libraries
  - 15,000+ registered end-users
  - 0.7 days average turn-around time
- ACNP linked by Google Scholar (from 2007)

# ACNP figures



# ACNP key factors of success

- Very simple management of the titles, thanks of the availability of the ISSN register for derivative cataloguing
- Reduced work overload in the cataloguing activity, especially for new titles
  - Not necessary highly specialized librarians
- Several ways of updating the catalogue, also through batch procedures (via OAI Harvesting, SFX export,...)
- A lot of participating libraries, even when using different cataloguing systems



# Importance of ISSN codes

Highlighted by:

- The adoption of batch procedures
  - serials with no matching ISSN are excluded from the automatic uploading procedures
- The integration between ACNP and Inter-Library Loan Systems such as NILDE
  - reliable library holdings may be automatically retrieved when the serial is univocally identified, via its ISSN
- The need of assigning a SICI to articles in the archive linked to ACNP
  - the lack of ISSN does not allow the creation of the SICI code

# ACNP Italian Serials

- Before the acquisition of the ISSN register (1993), a lot of title descriptions were lacking their ISSN code
- Italian Serials in ACNP
  - 52.500 total serial titles
  - 33.770 serials titles without ISSN code (65%)

# SAIISA project (preliminary)

- 2010
  - Start of manual checking of about 80,000 ACNP titles without ISSN codes, with the aim of associating to them an existing ISSN code
  - After 18 months were examined only 50,000 records, finding only 10% of existing ISSN codes (corresponding to titles catalogued before 1993)
    - Wasteful and long process

# SAIISA project (preliminary)

- 2010
  - Preliminary test with the IC
  - Sent to IC a sample of records to be analyzed, to assess the feasibility in terms of semi-automatic processing, using the matching procedures developed at IC
  - Test has positive results

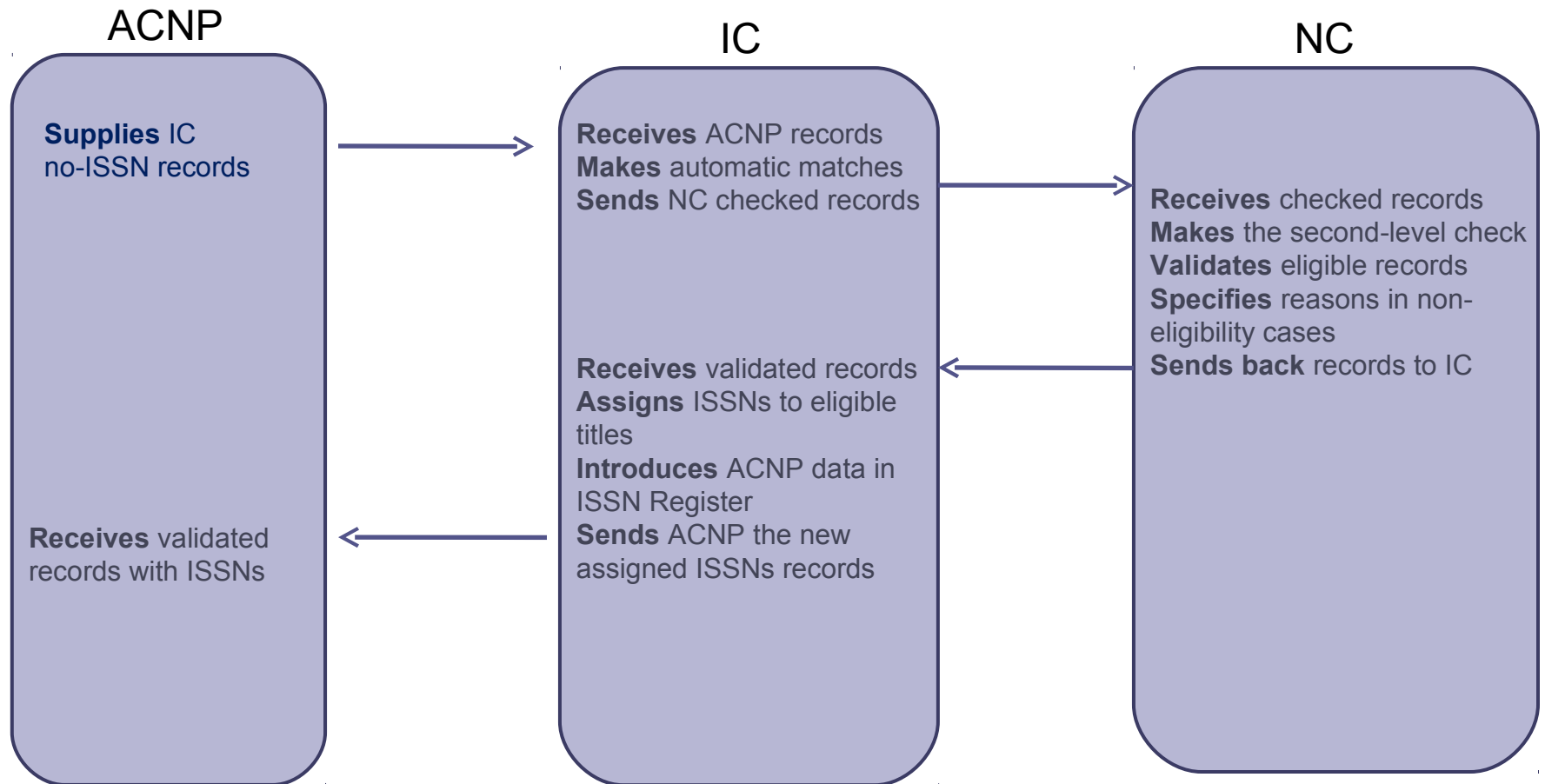
# SAIISA project

- First meeting in Bologna, May 2011
- SAIISA = Semi-automatic Assignment of ISSN to Italian Serials in the ACNP catalogue
- Objectives
  - To assign ISSN codes to 33.770 Italian Serials, using the procedures developed at the ISSN IC
- Partners
  - University of Bologna (ACNP)
  - CNR- ISSN Italian National Centre (NC)
  - ISSN International Centre (IC)

# SAIISA partner's roles

- ACNP
  - supplies own no-ISSNs records;
  - receives them back validated (with ISSNs)
- IC
  - receives records from ACNP;
  - makes first automatic match, finding similar /identical records already ISSN;
  - sends NC the first-level checked records;
  - receives back them validated;
  - assigns ISSNs to eligible titles introducing ACNP data in ISSN database;
  - sends to ACNP the new assigned ISSNs
- NC
  - makes the second-level check in whole list of records received from IC;
  - validates the eligible ones;
  - specifies reasons in non-eligibility cases;
  - sends back the whole range of records to IC

# SAIISA partner's roles



# SAIISA project's methodology

- Pilot test using a small sample of titles to assess the complexity and duration of the project
- Decision to analyze dead titles first (pilot only)
- First results of semi-automatic elaboration need obviously a phase for manual checks by National Centre, to solve specific ambiguous cases
- Semi-automatic assignation should allow to reduce or eliminate paper documentation (title page, cover page,...)



# SAIISA project's figures

- ACNP
  - 33.770 records of Italian Serials without ISSN codes
    - 22.904 current
    - 10.866 ceased
- IC
  - predicts about 55-60% automatic assignments
- ACNP + NC + IC
  - human resources involved: 10-12 units

# SAIISA Pilot test methodology - NC

NC activities during the Pilot Test phase:

- First step
  - receive from IC the list containing the automatic-match results;
  - make correctness check and examine each record to evaluate the instant-eligible ones and the uncertain ones
  - mark instant-eligible records;
  - mark uncertain records
- Second step
  - send IC the first list (instant-eligible records + 'already ISSN' titles)
  - hold uncertain records to examine them closely
- Third step
  - send IC the second - final - list of records (eligible, not eligible)

# Automatic match example

**NUM = 2514 ACNP = 35474**

**1935-1939 Cartas de Roma sobre el ateismo moderno (Roma)**

**TITLE PROPER = 1935-1939 Edicion espanola de Lettres de Rome. (Roma)**

**CONCLUSION initiale machine = ATTRIBUTION  
AUTOMATIQUE D'ISSN**

000 00350na4sa2200121 a 4500

007 ta 008 920519 d 1935 1939 it\_ \_ | | p \_ \_ | | | | | \_ \_ b 0 spa \_ c

022 1\_ \$a 0390-0002 \$2 \_d

044 \_ \$c ITA

222 \_0 \$a Cartas de Roma sobre el ateismo moderno

245 10 \$a Cartas de Roma sobre el ateismo moderno \$b Edicion espanola de Lettres de Rome.

260 \_ \$a Roma \$b [s.n.]

541 \_ \$acnp \$i 35474

# SAIISA Pilot test details - NC

- 2 'skilled' units (part time 50%)
- 359 records checked in 15 workdays
- 68% rate for instant-ISSN eligibility
  - Records sent to IC for instant-ISSN eligibility
    - 226 [63%] + 20 [5%] titles 'already ISSN assigned'
- 17% titles to be checked again (delayed ISSN-eligibility):
  - 61 [17%]
- 14% not ISSN-eligible titles
  - 52 [14%]

# SAIISA Pilot Test results – Checked records

# SAIISA Pilot test details – NC

- Instant-eligibility for a serial that is not found in ISSN archive
  - the ACNP record is introduced in ISSN archive without relevant bibliographic modifications
  - Or the ACNP record is introduced in ISSN archive after formal adaptations (e.g.: qualifier added in the title)
  - New ISSN codes will be immediately communicated to ACNP

# SAIISA Pilot test details – NC

- Immediate communication to ACNP about ‘ISSN already assigned’ for a serial that is
  - already in ISSN archive, marked ‘Legacy’:
    - ACNP record is introduced in ISSN archive without relevant bibliographic modifications
  - Or, it is already in ISSN archive, marked ‘Register’:
    - ACNP record is not introduced in ISSN archive

# SAIISA Pilot test details – NC

- ISSN-eligibility decision could be delayed to allow a deeper examination of ACNP titles in specific cases, e.g.
  - One or more ACNP records are similar – but not identical – to one or more ISSN records
  - One or more ACNP titles are very alike and could be related to the same serial, for instance bearing witness to different steps of its own life
  - An ACNP record contains few data (e.g. publisher and start date absent): correct identification needs more searches



# SAIISA Pilot test details – NC

- ISSN code could not be assignable in some cases
  - the ACNP record is not pertaining to Italian Centre (e.g. the serial has been published in Vatican City or in San Marino Republic or ...)
  - none of the ACNP libraries holds the recorded serial (the record is for 'bibliographic information' only)
- or else
  - the serial should not be identified by ISSN code (e.g.: the record attests a variant title)
  - the record doesn't contain enough data to allow an unambiguous identification
  - the title described in the record is not a serial (e. g.: the record describes an occasional supplement to a serial)

# Further National Centre tasks

NC tasks after ISSN assignation to ACNP records

- Bibliographic data control
  - Make sample checks about formal correctness of records
  - Link related titles if needed (only if links couldn't be obtained during the final downloading)
- Bibliographic data enrichment
  - Harmonize Dewey / UDC codes or newly assign them in cases of lack (Italian Centre usually introduces both classification codes in its own records)
- Public output and feedback
  - Inform Italian publishers of new assigned ISSN codes, to allow their publication (for current serial only)

# SAIISA formal agreement

- Partners agree to put equivalent resources and efforts in the project
- Partners draw equivalent benefits from the carrying out of the project
- Partners agree that resources and efforts are equivalent to the benefits of the project

As a consequence:

- No payments or financial transaction is or will be requested in the framework of the project by any of to any of the three partners
- ACNP accepts that the ACNP records, once entered in the ISSN database, also become an integral part of the ISSN database, and therefore also become fully ISSN records

# Project's benefits

- For Italy:
  - increase the international visibility of Italian Serial literature, thanks to their diffusion through the ISSN register;
  - increase the circulation of Italian Serials, thanks to a more reliable localization in the ACNP catalogue;
  - allow the correct identification and the appropriate evaluation for scientific publications. Consequently the substantial increase of ISSN-coded Italian Serials would be particularly useful for the scientific community that has to supply validated documentation of its own publishing activity to control organisms or bodies.

# Project's benefits

- For the ISSN Network
  - the ISSN coded serials amount increase (global improvement of the coverage of the ISSN database)
  - unchecked 'Legacy records' total amount decrease
  - new technical solutions for matching and selecting titles, developed in this project, can be adopted to retrospective conversion of all the serials without the ISSN codes, also in other catalogues, both in the Italian and other countries catalogues.

# Project's participants

- ISSN International Centre
  - Françoise Pellé, François-Xavier Pelegrin, Pierre Godefroy
- CNR-ISSN National Centre
  - Silvana Mangiaracina, Flavia Cancedda, Raffaella Lalle, Giorgia Migliorelli, Maurizio Lancia
- University of Bologna
  - Jacopo Di Cocco, Vincenzo Verniti, Gabriella Boninsegna, Christian Rossi

# Next....

- .... To know more about our project  
see you next year at the 37° ISSN Directors meeting!!!
- SAIISA Contacs:
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  - ISSN NC
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  - ACNP
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